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THE McALL MISSION

THE AMERICAN MCALL RECORD

VOL. XII

No 3



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JULY, 1894

THE AMERICAN McALL RECORD

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE

AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

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The office of Treasurer so sadly left vacant by the death of the beloved and regretted Mrs. Chamberlain, has been filled by the election of Mrs. Katharine S. Nicholson, of Philadelphia, one of the founders of the Association, and an original member of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Nicholson's address will be 2106 Chestnut Street, but she will not assume the duties of the office until October 1st. Until then the Assistant Treasurer, Miss C. Remington, will continue, as heretofore, to receive all moneys at 1710 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Dr. and Mrs. Parkhurst sailed for Europe on Wednesday, June 7th, to be gone about three months. All members of the McAll Association wish their President a pleasant summer and a safe return.

Those of our readers who may be in Paris this season are reminded that the bureau of the Mission is now in a very central situation, 36 Rue Godot de Mauroy, near the Madeleine. Drop in and make yourselves known to the officers in charge: it will encourage the workers over there, and stimulate your own interest in the work.

Particular attention is called to our literature, especially to our new publications, a complete list of which will be found on page 2 of the cover. We trust that all members of the Auxiliaries will send to the Bureau for an abundant supply for distribution during their summer outing. Such tracts as Mr. Anderson's "Incidents of the McAll Mission;" Prof.

Bracq's "The New Religious Spirit in France;" Dr. Hitchcock's beautiful tribute to Elizabeth Rogers Beach, "Memorial of a Consecrated Life;" and the paper on "The Evangelizing Power of the McAll Mission," are all calculated to inform the mind as to the need and usefulness of this great work, and some of them, to warm the heart of the reader to co-operate in it.

The report of the Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia in April is now issued, and may be procured by addressing the General Secretary.

There are at the Bureau two copies (14½ by 10 inches) of the photograph of the Paris Committee, twelve members. They are very desirable for hanging in the Church parlors in which the meetings of Auxiliaries may be held. The price is \$5.00 each. *First come, first served.*

Captain and Mrs. Pim have returned to *Le Bon Messager*, our little boat, where their services have been so eminently successful. This summer the boat is not to be on the Marne, where for two summers past it has done such excellent work, but on the rivers Oise and Aisne. When last heard from (June 1), it was just leaving Soissons, having had crowded meetings up to the last day. The Pastor's mother is going to begin at once a Mothers' Meeting in the little room that serves at present for the Protestant service, and it is proposed to open consultations with the agent of the *Société Centrale* as to measures for carrying on the work.

One of the results of the work of the "Mystery," in other words, the *Herald of Mercy*, which used to carry the gospel to the seaboard towns, was the founding of a station at Caen. The Protestant pastor of the town has carried it on with the aid of friends from Paris and elsewhere. The work

has been especially successful in reaching the intellectual class. A number of them have become members of the Protestant church.

In several of the Salles, some interesting courses of week-day lectures, on topics partly literary or historical, have been given during the past winter. They have had the effect of attracting a more intelligent class to our meetings. In several of the halls, also, Mr. Brown has given a course of lectures on the Life of Christ, illustrated with stereopticon pictures. These courses are always very popular.

Our Sunday-schools in Marseilles have 400 children's names on their rolls. Some of them can recite whole chapters of the Bible. There are among them forty-three active members of a temperance society, and sixty adherents. Precisely what the latter class profess or purpose has not been made clear.

May 31 was the *Assemblée Annuelle* of all the Sunday-schools of Paris and the vicinity, some 3,500 children, were gathered at the Trocadéro Palace, of which the McAll Mission contributed 776.

The *Paris Quarterly* for April contains a note stating that "the Ladies' Committee will be glad to welcome any self-supporting Christian ladies who may feel disposed to help in the Lord's work in Paris. Some knowledge of French and music is indispensable. The Committee have a Mission Home in Paris, where workers can be received for a moderate charge. All communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Henry J. Benham, 15 Rue Boileau, Auteuil, Paris." The note adds that there is much need of workers in the provinces, if any should feel called to offer for country stations.

WORK AMONG THE CHILDREN.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting know that one of the chief subjects of interest was the Sunday School work of our Mission. This work also includes the Thursday schools, of which religious instruction is the principal, if not the exclusive feature. Let us pause right here and consider what it means, that French children, to the number of several thousands, are not only willing but delighted to spend a part of their one weekly half-holiday in attending a religious meeting. If we saw such a disposition in our own children, should we not deem it strong evidence of a very gracious, or at least a most hopeful state? And these, we must remember, are the children of a people whom we are wont to call "volatile," who are certainly not religious in our understanding of the word—children who, till they came under the influence of the McAll Mission, were under no religious influences. What can this mean, if not that here is a most hopeful field for our work.

Six or seven years ago, in a little tract called "French Children's Appeal to the Children and Young People of Christian America," Dr. McAll wrote of the readiness with which these children received the gospel, of the delight with which they saved up their attendance tickets to exchange for Bibles, of the comfort and solace which some of them found in religion during illness and in the hour of death. He told of boys from ten to thirteen years old avowing their allegiance to the Saviour, and of the many who had already grown old enough and sufficiently prepared to become in their turn teachers in the Sunday and Thursday schools.

The appeal that Dr. McAll made to the Sunday School children of America was repeated at our last Annual Meeting. In other words, it was there resolved to make a new and special effort to interest American children in the children's work of the McAll Mission, by presenting the cause to the

Sunday Schools, and inducing schools to pledge a sufficient yearly sum to carry on, each, a Sunday school in France.

We all know that it costs something for Sunday School "lesson helps" and other printed matter. In the McAll Mission it has been found that pictures are the greatest possible help. The large wall pictures prepared in this country to accompany the International Lessons, with the small illustrated cards bearing the lesson passage, for the individual child, have proved to be almost indispensable. But these are expensive: the pictures are not made in France; they must be sent from America, and the duty adds greatly to the cost. It is estimated that an average of twenty-five dollars a year will provide a school with the necessary wall pictures and cards, and it is hoped that American Sunday Schools will take up this work. Each school which pledges twenty-five dollars a year will be put into communication with some one school, from which letters will be sent, telling of the interesting work in that school.

It is earnestly hoped that our auxiliaries will take up this matter. The number of Schools could be greatly increased. And when we consider how eager these children are for these schools, how gladly they attend them, how quickly they respond to the teaching, it seems of all fields of missionary effort the best to bring to the knowledge and interest of the children of our land. At the public meeting in Philadelphia, where this cause was presented, the Central Congregational Church School pledged twenty-five dollars for this purpose. Pledges have since been received from St. Matthias' Protestant Episcopal, North Broad Street Presbyterian, and St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal schools, all of Philadelphia, from Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian, Brooklyn, and New York Avenue Presbyterian, Washington; from the two schools of the Madison Square Presbyterian, New York, and Mount Pleasant Union School, Chester County, Penn. Who speaks next?

TRIBUTES TO MRS. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Board of Directors of the McAll Mission, at their meeting in Paris, March 20, 1894, made the following minute in reference to the death of Mrs. Frances Lea Chamberlain, Treasurer of the American McAll Association :

The sudden departure of our honored friend and associate has brought another great sorrow and loss to us and to the Mission.

It is only in the remembrance of the good she has done, in the thought of the glory she has gained, and in the unfailing sympathy and support of the Master we serve, that we gain any comfort and light in the midst of our affliction.

Our memory goes back to the early days of the American McAll Association, and calls to mind Mrs. Chamberlain's devotion to the work of the Mission in France, when she, with others, formed it, and made it such a motor of power and help. Since that day she has been a most constant and important factor in the continuance and success of the Mission. Her ready sympathy, her sweet spirit, her undeviating devotion, her practical wisdom, and her gifts, were resources of strength and encouragement we always counted upon. Her words were those of cheer and comfort to our hearts, and we sigh

“ For the sound of a voice that is still.”

We realize that it is not easy to measure the loss which her friends and the Mission sustain in her going. The contribution of her personality and service were so quietly and constantly given, that the great aggregate may not be present to our minds. He who sums up the deeds of His children will give an addition of no small amount to the contribution which Mrs. Chamberlain has made, not only to this Mission, but also to many unmentioned interests which have depended upon her love and benevolence. Her sweet dignity, pleasant bearing, and the consistency of her life, gave her power to be

a benediction among her associates in Christian work. Her Spirit and example have been an inspiration.

She has followed our loved and lamented leader, Dr. McAll, to that blessed home which our Lord provides, and we believe that they, with other friends of the Mission, now repose there. "Their works do follow them."

We desire to bear to our friend and co-laborer, the Rev. L. T. Chamberlain, D. D., the expression of our deepest sympathy with him in the great sorrow which has invaded his heart and home in the going of his beloved wife.

Our words may be grateful as tokens of esteem and Christian friendship, but we know how powerless they are to bring you adequate help. We would be desolate, indeed, if we felt that you could only depend upon the sympathy of earthly friends, but we know you have a sure refuge and help in the heart of Christ, and we pray that the Comforter may administer abundant consolation to you in this hour of need. We feel that the work which was so dear to you and your good wife will seem to grow in sacredness and importance. Our sweetest reward will be what hers has been, to know at the close of life that we have served our Lord and Saviour.

We express to Mr. Lea and to the immediate members of the family to which Mrs. Chamberlain belonged, our sincere sympathy in this time of sundered ties, which had bound you together in such blessed association.

The Directors feel that in life and death we are bound together, in fraternal regard and co-operation, with the officers and constituency of the American McAll Association.

We feel with you in the sorrow which has come to us. Our honored, trusted, and efficient workers fall by the way, and we are left. But God is with us, and His work will go on.

Their labor and sacrifice consecrate it to us who remain for a time, and the emphasis of their interest inspires and increases our own.

Our comfort is in Him who is our chief director, and who lives and loves forevermore.

“ Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father which loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and stablish you in every good word and work.” 2 Thess. II, 6, 7.

FROM THE WASHINGTON AUXILIARY.

At a late meeting of the Washington Auxiliary of the McAll Association, the ladies heard, with the truest sorrow, of the death, in California, of Mrs. Frances Lea Chamberlain, the esteemed and beloved Treasurer of the McAll Association.

To those who had the privilege of knowing her, it would be useless to enlarge upon the beauties of her character and the extent of her usefulness, or to speak of the great loss which the McAll Mission has suffered by her removal from our midst.

It is therefore only to express our own grief, and to say how deeply we sympathize with the Parent Society, that the Auxiliary has directed this minute should be sent to the Board of Directors in Philadelphia.

The winning manners and the attractive appearance of Mrs. Chamberlain were but the index of the gentleness of her nature, which however, was combined with the firmness necessary to lead others, and the quickness of intellect and the decision of character which enabled her to see correctly and to act promptly, in all cases, where action was required. These qualities were the source of her usefulness in the Board of Directors.

When to these characteristics are added the deep interest she felt in the evangelization of France, and above all, the strong faith she had, that God had inspired His servants to enter upon this work, and therefore He would assuredly enable them to carry it on successfully, we can readily under-

stand how the McAll Mission must suffer from the removal of a helper who was so admirably fitted to labor in this field. We can only pray that He who has laid aside this instrument, who in our eyes appeared to be so essential, will give to His sorrowing servants another one, who, held as she was, "in the hollow of His hand," will be capable of doing the work which she did so well.

We cannot close this slight tribute to her memory, without expressing our deepest, tenderest sympathy with those who, stricken in their warmest affections, must find their only earthly consolation in the fact that the very depth of their sorrow proves the worth and the charm of their loved one. May God comfort them!

ANNIE E. RODGERS,

President of Washington Auxiliary.

Washington, April 27, 1894.

In the street where is situated our Grenelle Salle, lived an old man who belonged to a free-thinkers' club, one rule of which was that the members pledged themselves to have their funerals without any religious service. V. one day entered our hall, and was spoken to by Colonel Paschkoff, who gave him on leaving two or three tracts to read. Some time after he met with an accident, and was in the hospital for treatment, but on coming out it was evident he could never hope to regain his strength. He grew worse, and finding himself nearing his end, he sent for the friends of the Salle, saying he wished to be reconciled to God before his death, for the truth he had read in the tracts had opened his eyes to his danger. He passed away in peace, confessing his faith in his Saviour, and desiring that his body should be taken for the funeral service to the Salle des Conférences, where he had first heard of Christ.

Pastor Escande had the opportunity of preaching the gospel to many of V.'s old friends who attended the funeral.

PARIS NOTES.

ANNUAL MEETING.

On April 22d was held the *Assemblée Générale* (Annual Meeting of the Mission). The great Church of the Oratoire was tastefully decorated with French, English and American flags. The audience was large, and the singing of the new songs, which Mrs. McAll has just completed, was spirited.

A choir, made up of the best voices among the young women of the various stations, led in the music, which filled a large part of the programme.

A year before, to the very day, Dr. McAll had hoped to be at the meeting, but was prevented by ill-health. We could but feel that his blessed spirit was with us and that he now rejoices in the progress of the work. An excellent report was read by Mr. Greig on the work of the Mission through its various activities—in permanent halls, in the streets, in the villages. The Gospel is taught through the

- a. Sunday Schools.
- b. Classes for Bible Study.
- c. Missionary Churches.
- d. Visits at the Homes.

The Auxiliary meetings were classified thus :

- a. Music and Stereoscopic Views.
- b. Lecture Rooms.
- c. Temperance Societies.
- d. Soup Distribution.
- e. Dispensaries.
- f. Industrial Schools.

Special meetings also are held for the blind, and for mothers. The Children's Thursday Schools are among these special meetings. In closing, he spoke of resources of the work, the Mission's forces and the aim in view.

THE ANNIVERSARY.

Mrs. McAll came to Paris for the anniversary of Dr. McAll's death.

A commemoration service was held on May 11th at Salle Royale. The commemoration service was opened by the hymn: "Who are these in bright array?"

Qui sont ces hommes heureux,
En leurs robes éclatantes?
Ecoutez leur chant joyeux
Après des eaux jaillissantes,

after which Mr. Greig, who presided, read from Hebrews 12, and introduced the several speakers, saying that with the sadness the day brought to all his friends, was mingled a feeling of thankfulness that the work has been able to continue.

He then introduced Mr. Ernest Dhombres, one of the first of Dr. McAll's friends. Mr. Dhombres said:

"I can still seem to hear his English accent and see him still. I do not forget that affectionate hand shake. What most struck me in this man was his faith. He was a man of faith and his obedience was second only to his faith. He did not ask, 'How shall I do this work—what are my tastes and preferences?' These were but one question, 'What is obedience to God?' He was brought to France in a providential manner, at a providential time. How often we think of our own preferences, and do not ask, 'Is it the will of God?' His love for France was great. He worked with God, and he speaks to us by his works. May his memory be blessed to us who are here and help us to continue, each as he best can, fortified by this example, so that we may at last say, 'I have finished the work that thou gavest me to do.'"

Mr. Anderson followed, speaking especially of the love, zeal and humility of our departed leader.

"His love was for all—all Christians of all denominations. He once said to two of his friends:

“ ‘We might compose a new church, in which all who love Christ and take the Bible as the standard for their lives shall be members.’ He loved not only all denominations, but all men. I remember only once seeing him angry. It was when a poor man had been put out; putting down his hymn book, ‘Sir,’ said Dr. McAll, ‘it is you who should be put out,’ and then continued reading the hymn. His love to people was so great that he sometimes gave away what he had until he had nothing to get home with. I remember that once he had to borrow from a beggar to whom he had just given all he had with him, but what he thus borrowed was repaid.

“ His love for little children was very marked. This loving nature went out to all animals. I have seen him at work with a cat on his knees. He loved the birds, he loved the flowers, he loved all the works of his Heavenly Father.

“ His was a great heart. It was love that made him come to France.

“ All his work was characterized by humility. I remember once being with him in the rain when I suggested that he raise his umbrella. ‘Oh, its so old that it is of no use.’ I then offered him the shelter of mine, ‘Oh, my clothes are so old it isn’t worth while.’ ”

Pastor Theodore Monod followed with eloquent words, and closed by reading a hymn composed by Dr. McAll.

THE MISSION BOAT.

A prayer meeting of the workers was held on the boat *Bon Messager* at Bois Meudon on Saturday afternoon, April 28th.

The boat had been stationed for two weeks at Bois Meudon (between Paris and St. Cloud), at the request of Mr. Gout, Pastor of the Protestant Church of St. Cloud. Mr. Gout gave a full report of the excellent work accomplished. The meetings were always full and the preaching attentively followed.

The police had warned the pastor that they could not be responsible for what might happen if they undertook to hold services in the floating chapel.

“You do not know these people. You will have all your windows broken.” Meeting the Chief of Police the afternoon of the 28th, he reminded him of the prediction.

“Oh,” he replied, “it is not as I expected. It has pleased the people ; from the first it made a good impression.”

As a positive result of this two weeks' work seven young women have come forward seeking religious instruction, for whom a class has been started at his house by the pastor.

About thirty, of all ages, including several known to Mr. Gout for some time, remained to a special meeting to which all who were especially serious were invited.

MISSION NOTES.

A very pleasant anniversary meeting was held at the Rue des Dames (Salle Cleveland) on the 27th of March. The hall was trimmed with greens and flowers. One of the women had made a small bouquet of flowers for each one present. Tea and “English cake” were served. Mr. Brown and Mr. Greig spoke to the women, Mr. Greig telling them of his visit in Cleveland.

The Mission Bonne Nouvelle held its anniversary meeting on the 29th of April.

The anniversary of Salle Beach was May 7th, at which Dr. Thurber spoke, and Pastor Louis Vernes, President of the Consistoire.

When, on the 2d of May, Salle New York closed its Mothers' Meeting, there were present about two hundred and fifty women.

The women's prayer meeting, from two to three Wednesday afternoons, is attended by about forty women. These women are studying the life of Christ from the Gospel of Mark, and are most intelligent in their remarks.

Since the 1st of May the meetings on Monday and Friday evenings, at the Rue Royale Station, have been discontinued. During the summer, visitors will find the hall open on Sunday and the four remaining days in the week.

The fête of the Sunday schools of Paris was held in the Trocadéro on the 31st of May. The children from the various Sunday and Thursday schools were assembled in the great hall. Mr. Greig gave a stereoscopic talk and Bible stories. The children carried banners to distinguish the various schools.

Mr. Brown has left Paris for Marseilles, where he expects to hold open-air meetings during the summer.

The *Signal* has become a daily paper, in which politics and social questions are reviewed from a Christian standpoint.

Mrs. McAll is preparing a biography of her husband, for which she has been collecting most interesting material. His family history, birthplace, early life and English ministry lend themselves admirably to description, and are full of picturesque incidents.

ANNA BEATRICE BEARD.

THE McALL MISSION IN ROCHEFORT.

BY MR. DÜRRLEMAN.

It is with a sense of deep thankfulness to the Master of the Harvest-field, that I send this report of the last twelve months' work, for His goodness and His mercy has sustained us and will follow us all the days of our life.

In our personal experience we have been often pressed on all sides, but not cast down; sometimes worn out, but never forsaken. It is in the furnace of affliction that we learn to sympathize with those that suffer. The Gospel is mighty to draw and to comfort the human heart. What other kind of meetings would succeed twice a week, in attracting and holding such a large attendance as we have? We

have had excellent meetings all along. Our children's meetings, also, have been prosperous. The Christmas treats were truly successful. Some of the parents came then for the first time, and we are thus able to exhort them not only to send their children regularly, but to show the good example of attending themselves. We give each child some little present, and a nice book to those who have learned their verses regularly.

I am often asked by friends to visit sick people who have never entered the halls. There are also those who, like Nicodemus, do not like to be seen in the meetings, but who come to see me regularly, and are always glad of tracts and books.

Some time since I was asked to visit a woman who was ill, but I had to use much caution, for she was a Catholic. In showing her sympathy I was able to speak of the Gospel as the consolation of the afflicted, and so I was at last able to read and pray with her. A few days before she died, I felt constrained to read to her those verses in 1 John 1, where it speaks of the confession of our sins to God. The following day I was told that she had been heard several times praying to God for the pardon of her sins, and confessing them to Him. She would not see the priest on dying, and was buried by the pastor.

At La Rochelle a family was induced to attend the hall by the testimony given by a man who had found Christ, and who died very happily.

We have seen with joy the rapid progress made by a good woman who was converted when ill for a long time last summer. She spoke with perfect calmness of death, and the neighbors who visited her could not understand it. She said to me: "They cannot comprehend that the thought of a speedy departure is sweet to me; for death is gain since Christ is my life. How sad it is that I have not known the

Saviour earlier!" This woman went regularly to mass, although attending our meetings. She has a friend who comes with her, and who has also found Christ. She has told us of her eventful life, for she was a cantinière; with her husband she followed the regiment in Africa. Then she was in the campaign in Italy, where she was present at the battle of Solferino. She worked on the ambulances there up to a late hour of the night, helping at many operations. She was also in the war of 1870, where she was separated from her husband and son, and lost everything. She has a good pension from the Government, and now the Prince of Peace has taken possession of this woman so strong and resolute, and who has known the horrors of war, but who now enjoys the peace that passes all understanding.

I could also tell of the conversion of several others, but there was nothing specially striking in these cases.

We had excellent annual meetings in November, when Mr. Greig was with us. The hall was over-full, and several friends from a distance came also. We made a collection in favor of the Mission which amounted to 72.55 francs.

Monsieur de Richemond, our old friend and most kind helper, the Archiviste of the Department, adds a few words confirming all that Mr. Dürrleman has written. He speaks most encouragingly of the progress of the work, and evidently feels that the year has been one of much progress and deep spiritual blessing.

This excellent gentleman had a great trial in the summer. He and his family were in their country house, when it suddenly took fire and was consumed in a very short time. No lives were lost, nor injury done to any one, but M. de Richemond lost the manuscript of an important work he had just brought to completion, on the History of the Department of the Charente Inférieure, and which was ready for the press.

EPERNAY ON THE MARNE.

In May, 1893, Pastor Charlier opened the hall at Epernay, a fruit of the work of the Mission boat, as our readers will remember. After nine months' experience, the following is our good friend's account of his labors :

“ I have, thank God, only good news to send you. Up to the present time our Salle is almost always filled, twice a week, and the attendance has been beyond our expectations. I had feared that when curiosity was satisfied, we should see the numbers diminishing, but such has not been the case. We have a steady group of those who come evidently because they appreciate the meetings.

During December we were particularly encouraged, and several times the Salle was literally crammed. Since then, owing to the intense cold, our numbers have somewhat diminished ; but that is not to be wondered at, as there is a good deal of sickness about.

The Christmas fêtes were splendid, and I trust that they were a means of blessing. Our fir tree, that I had sent for from the Vosges, was a grand success. We feared a crush, but were able to take such precautions as to avoid it. You ought to have seen the crowd of 350 children packed into the Salle, two to each chair, and to have heard their exclamations of joy. The singing went splendidly, and when the moment came to give away the things, as each child passed before the tree and received the little present and the orange or bonbons, it would have been worthy an artist's brush to depict the expression of joy on the little faces. It was the first time they had ever seen such a sight, or shared such a fête.

The evening of the same day we lit up the tree for the parents, and they were as pleased as the children. We saw many a tear steal down the cheeks of these good people, for there are a good number of Alsatians here, and they had not seen such a sight since they left their dear country.

As we had anticipated, the priests are up in arms. They have now forbidden the children to attend the school, and threaten the parents that if they allow them to come, they will not permit them to make their first communion. Many hold on, but naturally a good many are frightened. So our school has dropped off to some 100 children. But I must confess that I do not altogether regret this, as those we have are much more attentive and easy to teach than when we had them all crowding in.

This work is our great joy and comfort. But it brings such an amount of extra work and fatigue, that sometimes I really do not know how to get on. Especially is this so on Sundays, when I have to speak some four or five hours at my church at Epernay and in my annexes, so that by the time the evening comes I am tired out. I am entirely alone. May God grant me the strength I need to continue. We have had many letters telling us how the work has been blessed."

A worker not belonging to the McAll Mission relates that he was in one of the markets in Paris lately, and heard a merchant gravely reproving another seller, a Jewess, who was reviling the name of our Lord. The Christian joined in with the valiant defender of the truth, and sternly admonished the poor woman, saying that she was reviling the greatest and holiest of her nation, and that she would have to render him account of her words one day, for He would be her judge.

The man who had first spoken asked this Christian friend if he knew the Salle des Conférences, 23 Rue Royale (Salle Philadelphie). "Certainly," was the answer, "I go there sometimes." "Ah, I am often there, and it was there that I received my first religious impressions. I only wish all my friends would go there, for they would hear the truth, and become better men and women."

This is only another illustration of how the good seed falls, we know not where.

THE MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

Our winter's work has brought us many good results, and we feel much encouraged. In making up the annual report, I find an aggregate of nearly 6,000 attendances at the Mothers' meeting and the prayer meeting which follows it during the summer. At Easter there were twenty-five desirous of uniting with the church. Some, however, were ill, so there were only seven who were received into M. Mettetal's church, and two with M. Monod's. On Whitsunday, four more united with M. Mettetal's church. Some sixty or eighty are having special religious instruction with M. Mettetal, who comes for this purpose every Wednesday, after our meeting, for half or three quarters of an hour.

Visiting in the homes is, I think, the basis of all mission work. There it is that you understand just what you have to deal with, and the hideousness of sin is revealed in all its various phases. Nothing else makes you feel your own weakness to combat such powers of iniquity, and the absolute necessity of divine help; and when the battle is fought, you know to whom all glory is due. Thank God for these victories which give us encouragement to go on. Our Bible woman writes: "Calling upon Mme A., I found her occupied mending her husband's clothes. Although quite old, her room was in good order and perfectly clean. Her husband, old and infirm also, comes to the evening meeting, and he thanked me for coming to see them, as he wanted to tell me how his wife had changed since she came to the Mothers' Meetings. That now she had ceased to grumble and complain, but was always cheerful. 'In fact,' said he, 'I have come to love Wednesdays, for when my wife comes home, she tells me all she has heard, and we feel encouraged and consoled, for you see, Mademoiselle, we are both of us growing old, and we must think seriously of soon meeting our God.'—It was half-past eleven when I climbed up into

the mansarde of Mme M., who, old and infirm, keeps her place clean. I opened her cupboard and found it in order. She told me of her sufferings and privations and that she was no longer able to work, but she thanked God that He still gave her the strength to go to our Wednesday meetings. 'What would become of me if I could not go there! It is there that I gather patience and courage to bear all my ills.'

"Mme X. is new to us this winter, but never misses a week. She was borne down by trial and suffering, when 'by chance,' she says, she came one afternoon to us. She had been a brave, hard-working woman, doing more than her share to raise and support her five children. But there came a time when sickness and no work brought starvation to their doors—then the husband abandoned her. Alone with her five little ones, no food, no money, no work, on the verge of despair, she comes to our meeting. God seems to speak to her. She goes out cheered, comforted; she remembers a former master for whom she worked; she goes to him and he helps her, and finally he says to us one day, 'this woman is so changed by what she hears at your meetings, it seems to me little less than a miracle. Look at the burden she is bearing; look at her patience, her energy, it is marvelous. Give her work, if you can, and I will give her bread; she shall never lack for that.'

"*She* says, if all poor, discouraged, miserable women could only understand all the happiness, hope and love, that are in God's words, heard every Wednesday in Salle Rivoli, they would never go elsewhere for consolation."

Instances such as these are fortunately multiplied; we see that homes are blessed, but we see also the tremendous power of sin raging about us, and we see how much more we need of zeal and faith to overcome the enemy.

CORDELIA LE GAY.

VAISE.

BY MADAME DUBUS.

Of all the branches of the work at Lyons, which are all dear to our hearts, Vaise is the dearest, the most cherished child. My daughters and I have during the last six years worked in this busy district among the women and the children.

But we feel as if the work is scarcely begun. We have neither the time nor the strength to follow up the long list of addresses which are given us. We are welcome everywhere ; we might make a great many more visits, but the few workers at Lyons are now totally unable to cope with the vast amount of work which might be done in this great city of 440,000 souls.

The hall at Vaise is dark and too small. We cannot form classes in the school. Nevertheless the Sunday and Thursday schools have been always prosperous, with an average of seventy to eighty in the six winter months, and sixty in summer. Boys are in the majority and give us much trouble. Vaise is an out-lying district, and we have no helpers ; the children are all disorderly and difficult to manage ; some of them are young infidels, and already hardened by the rising tide of unbelief ; but being intelligent and wide awake, they listen to those who know how to speak to them. They learn by heart whole parables ; they answer well, and sing heartily.

We have been encouraged by the conversion of several girls in the school, who help us to keep order, and form the larger and most living part of those who attend the special meeting of girls, whom I convoke once a month for Bible study and prayer. These girls, all Catholics by birth, have a small prayer-meeting after school with their superintendent, in which they all pray with much heartiness and fervor. Some of the boys, too, have received a blessing, and attend school

with affectionate earnestness. Amongst them is a dear boy of eleven, who says he has given himself to the Lord, and who would not take his first communion in the Roman Catholic Church. His mother, recently converted, did not influence him in the matter. This lad desires to become one day an evangelist. His large eyes drink in the lessons, and his mother speaks most highly of him. We are trying this winter to keep the bigger lads under our influence, by holding special meetings for them; and, to keep them from the evils of smoking and drinking, we are trying to form a Juvenile Temperance Society. We are only starting, asking God for wisdom and light, that we may succeed in a work which seems urgently needed. One most precious result of the sincere faith of one dear girl, is the gentleness and patience with which she takes care of her invalid mother, who herself has been converted during her sad affliction. This mother, who is still young, has lost the use of both her hands. She gives a beautiful testimony to her daughter's gentleness and tenderness, which never fail one moment while dressing her, feeding her, and doing a thousand little things for her, besides doing all the housework without murmur. The mother herself edifies us by her patience under this sore affliction. Formerly we used to pray together that she might be healed; now she is submissive, and though with eyes full of tears, murmurs not, but is always praying for the conversion of her son and of her husband, who is far from abstemious.

The Mothers' Meeting has kept up in a very encouraging manner. Although they all have to work hard to earn their living, these women manage to keep that afternoon free; and we have about sixty women with whom we are regularly in touch at least once a fortnight. Many prejudices have been broken down, many Scripture texts learned, and also many hymns, for they sing a good deal during the meetings. The personality of Christ has become more real and living

to them, and a desire for a religion which lasts all through each day has been awakened. I feel in communion with their hearts and souls, as I look into these sympathetic faces, so interested and attentive when we read and then explain, in simple language, the Bible stories. Some of them, who had given themselves to the Lord, surprised me most agreeably by asking that, at the close of each meeting, we might spend a few moments in prayer. I have been able to judge by their petitions how deeply they have at heart the conversion of all the members of their families, and their own growth in the truth.

The result has been a small outburst of persecution on the part of their worldly-minded friends, who ridicule them. They have felt it keenly. Let us pray that they may stand firm. Christ is evidently at work, since the devil is rousing opposition.

The few visits I have been able to make, have led me to believe that the work of God is going on efficaciously, unknown to us, although our labors have been so defective.

Visiting one of these friends during an illness, I had a conversation with her husband, whom I found to be a diligent student of the Bible. Deeply deploring the unbelief which was rampant around him, he told me how he had tried to speak about God, and to read the Gospel aloud to his lodgers; but they made such a disturbance that he was obliged to give up the reading aloud. "They *will* not believe," said he, "and yet one is so happy even here below when one believes on Jesus Christ—we are sure of what we believe;" and then he quoted several passages from the First Epistle of St. John.

Pray much for our Mission, dear friends, which is a shining testimony for Christ in the midst of a corrupt and unbelieving race, that the children of God may be made manifest, and his servants ever more and more devoted to this holy cause.

OPEN-AIR WORK IN THE PROVINCES.

We gave lately an interesting account of the work carried on by our friends at Marseilles in the streets of that city. Dr. Burroughs, of St. Etienne, has been spending his Sunday afternoons in visiting the towns and villages in his neighborhood, and, during 1893, he was able to do so on twenty-four Sundays, during which time he visited twenty-five villages and towns and held over one hundred meetings, and sold some four hundred New Testaments.

Only on one occasion was there any difficulty, and that was when they were attacked by a band of anarchists. In every place they were received with a most respectful attention.

Dr. Burroughs says he kept each week a careful record of their experiences, and he gives one such as a specimen. It was on Sunday, the 30th of July. "This afternoon we set out for Firming, a small town of fifteen thousand inhabitants, about eight miles from St. Etienne, and famous for its great foundries, where cannon, projectiles, steel plates for men-of-war and other like things are manufactured for the State. A large number of men are employed, and sin and ignorance prevail.

"On our arrival we went first to a small group of houses just outside the town, and were soon the object of considerable curiosity. However, we were not long in putting the people at ease by a few words explaining the object of our visit, and before the first hymn was over we had quite a crowd around us. I chose for my subject the "Prodigal Son," and during the whole time I spoke not one unpleasant voice was heard. We sang another hymn, after which one of my companions spoke for a short time, and then we closed with a third hymn. Thirteen New Testaments were sold.

"Much encouraged, we entered the town, and passing up a street, perceived a large court, into which we went,

although we could only see two or three persons about. But we know from experience how easy it was to have a good audience by singing. Consequently we unrolled our hymns and commenced singing as heartily as we could. In five minutes we were the center of a crowd of fifty persons, not counting a swarm of children, who always get in the front ranks. The "Lost Sheep," was our subject and the attention was as remarkable as in the first meeting. A drunken man tried to interrupt, but his wife induced him to go away, as the crowd began to show their anger with him. After a second hymn, my friend M. Eyraud spoke with great power on the assurance of salvation, and I then explained to them what the New Testament was, and immediately they purchased all we had and twenty portions of St. John. The children received a Scripture card each.

"Moving further on, we came to another part of the town, and going through a street filled with people sitting at their doors to take the air, we began again to distribute our hymn sheets, and invited them to join us. At first they seemed much amused, but when they understood who we were and what was our object, they became quiet and attentive, and while speaking I heard some of them whisper "*C'est le médecin anglais.*" Our audience was very good, and, after speaking and singing alternately for half an hour, we offered them the gospel of John. They took all we had and we returned home with thankful hearts for such opportunities of preaching the gospel of the grace of God.

"How changed is France. Twenty-five years ago not only would we not have been allowed to speak of religion, on the public ways, but we could not have assembled in any house without special permission, always difficult to obtain, and, in any case, our numbers could not have exceeded twenty persons."

THE WORK IN TOULOUSE.

We are encouraged in our work for God at St. Michel Toulouse. I do not mean by this to convey the thought that we know of many conversions; what I mean is, that the marked seriousness of the people who come regularly, together with the solemn feeling which is experienced there, is to us a sure token that God the Holy Spirit is working in some souls.

Our school has done well of late. During the last year we had 59 names on the books—a higher number than we have registered in any previous year. Of course, the attendance is not always satisfactory, it is rarely so, I think, in a Catholic country, except it be in specially favored places. Of these 59 children, 55 are Roman Catholics. We follow the international lessons. The scholars take evident interest in the lessons (the younger ones excepted); this is shown by the generally correct and ready answers given to the questions asked. The weakest part of our work at St. Michel is our inability to visit the people in their homes as often as desirable.

Of the work generally, I am happy to be able to report a healthy tone. Our watch-night services, held in our central hall, the Colambète, as well as the consecration service, held on the 1st of January, at Arnand-Bernard, were both remarkably good meetings. At the watch-night service, which lasted for one hour and three-quarters, viz.: from 10.30 p. m. to 12.15, over eighty persons were present, of whom more than half were Roman Catholics. God blessed us abundantly. That meeting will be long remembered by some.

On New Year's-day we met at 3 o'clock, p. m. I need not tell you that the first day of the year is devoted to calls, by all classes of society; notwithstanding this fact, we had nearly fifty present. At the close of the meeting, just before singing the consecration hymn—

“Jusqu'à la mort nous te serons fidèles—”

we asked the believers in Jesus who were present and who

really wished to renew their consecration to God, to witness it by standing up, we also added that if there were any in the hall who had never seriously given themselves to God, but who wished to do so, to show it in the same manner, viz.: by standing up. Every person present stood up, save two!!

D. ROBERT.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM MME BRUN.

[M. and Madame Brun work at Calais, M. Brun being an engineer in a biscuit factory. The Mission pays part of the expenses of the hall.]

“We believe that an anarchist, who calls himself ‘the greatest anarchist in the world,’ is won for the gospel. His face, so hard and defiant, has become softened and calm. All here know him and what his life has been, and the change in him has produced a great impression. His wife said last evening, ‘Oh, how all is changed at home now. It is terribly changed (*c’est une rude affaire*). Formerly it was a row all day long; now one hardly speaks above a whisper. The bottle which we used to fetch the gin from the cabaret is now used for the oil for the salad. We could not afford such a luxury before. Now we can have all we want.’

“This poor fellow was also a terrible drunkard. He was in prison on four occasions, fighting the police and breaking his fetters. He is still closely watched by the police, and his three children were taken from him by the authorities. The poor wife said that when they came to take them she caught up one in her arms and squeezed it so tightly that she believed she had broken its little ribs. The police have now restored them the children, seeing so great a change in the father. We do feel thankful that God has been pleased to allow us to be the means of bringing light to this poor dark heart. It is just a year ago, the last day of 1892, that the man first entered the Salle. And what a change has been wrought in him. It is truly life from the dead. His testimony has made a deep impression on the neighborhood.”

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR IN THE McALL MISSION.

The church at Bercy, of which Mr. Greig is pastor, and which, our readers will remember, grew by its own vitality, out of the Mission Salle in that quarter, has an active little Society of Christian Endeavor. From a report of its work in the Paris Record for April we take a part, as follows :

The meeting of the Société d'Activité Chrétienne connected with the Bercy Mission Church is always held on the last Sunday of the month, and not a single member would willingly be absent from it. The members who work in the evening meetings of the Mission get substitutes on that Sunday, or have it definitely arranged that they shall be free once a month to go to Bercy. They arrive by twos and threes from the different salles, and finally at 7.30 p. m. sit down to a slight repast. Most of them have already taught or directed two if not three schools, and yet their day's work is not done—for there comes the evening service, and *after that* the meeting of the month. All the members are working people, and during the week are employed in various ways—as clerks, printers, tailoresses, telegraphists, factory hands, and even domestic servants. The tea takes place in an upper room, which is cleared and ready for the S. d'A. Ch. at 9.30 p. m.

It was just 9.30 p. m. as we came up stairs last Sabbath evening (4th March), there were no strangers, just ourselves and the pastor who has been replacing Mr. Greig during his absence in America. As soon as we were seated, a member began singing the verse of a well-known hymn, which was instantly taken up by all present. The vice-president offered a short prayer for a blessing, and that none might leave without having received what he most needed. Then came the roll-call, each member present answering to his name by a verse of Scripture, and, if he has the courage, telling the reason why he has cited that particular verse, and in what way it has helped, encouraged, or rebuked him. As the list is rather

long, it is broken by the singing of a verse of a hymn, after which the secretary continues his 'appel.' The absentees always send their verses by a special friend, or enclosed in a letter to the President, or even by telegraph. Last Sunday I had received two such letters and a telegram, and other members also had been entrusted with verses from those unavoidably detained.

"Pastor Vernier then gave us a short but very earnest address on *Obedience*, and laid great stress on the fact that it was in quietness and confidence our strength was to be found, not in emotions and excitement, but in obedience to the duties of our every-day life—doing everything unto the Lord.

"Letters were then read, first from Miss Lowe, who is at present in England. She thanked the members for their brotherly love shown to her poor desolate girls at Pantin. The S. d'A. Ch. had gone there, and given the young people a fête on Shrove Tuesday, said fête consisting of tea, biscuits, recitations, and songs; the whole closing with prayer.

"Letter number two, from M. Lainé, who is doing his military service at Beauvais. He begged us to remember his young men at Pantin, and also not to forget his class in the Sunday school at Beauvais. Three of his class are to join the Church at Easter. He has never missed writing to us since he began his 'service militaire,' and he is holding fast his profession of faith.

"Generally, there is a letter from the missionary in South Africa, to whom our members take turns to write each month. The missionary is M. Frédérick Christol, who, when he was in Paris years ago, superintended the Bercy and Antoine Schools.

"The reports of the various meetings followed. These meetings are worked for the most part entirely by Christian Endeavorers. In the mission schools of Bercy, St. Antoine, Alfortville, Montreuil, Rue d'Allemagne, Ivry, Mènilmontant, and Pantin, Endeavorers are to be found.

“*Rivoli* Sunday School is worked entirely by Endeavorers from Ste. Marie and Bercy. The school continues to prosper, and there is general progress. An old woman has been taught to read by one of the members.

THE ITALIAN COLPORTEUR.

His name is *Angelo Evangelista*. He carries a basket of sundry kinds of wares, but underneath has a good supply of tracts and Bibles. With his wares he makes acquaintances, and then presents and explains his tracts, or reads to his hearers the gospel.

Six years ago, while in Paris, he dropped into one of the McAll Mission evening meetings, attracted by the singing. He heard the gospel preached for the first time, and was much moved by it and the singing. His whole soul was stirred by what he heard. As the meeting closed, the minister at once took his stand by the door, and shook hands with every one, giving each a passing word. With a warm grasp he asked the stranger: “Do you love Jesus?” The question and the personal interest shown touched him deeply, and, nodding his head, he went to his room, troubled and thoughtful as never before. He felt the need of help from above, and, bowing upon his knees, he poured out his desires or help and light.

His whole soul was moved, and he spent the entire night in prayer and supplication. Toward morning there came to him a sense of peace, a consciousness that his prayers were heard, and he fell asleep. When late in the day he awoke, there was such a joy in his heart, he could hardly contain himself. As soon as he met his friends, he told them the words he had heard and the blessed experience of his heart. All day long he visited his friends, and they, amazed at his story, promised to accompany him in the evening to the meeting. When the hour arrived, he appeared at the Salle with

twenty-two Italians and friends, who came to listen to the gospel. The minister was fairly taken from his feet by the sight, and at the close warmly welcomed him and his friends.

From that day he took up the work of inviting strangers to Christ. He gave himself up to study, and soon showed himself qualified of the Lord to sow his seed. He has been the means of bringing many of his countrymen to the cross of Christ, and the pastor says he is the most successful colporteur he has ever known.

Florence, Italy.

PRINCIPAL MISSION STATIONS IN PARIS

23 Rue Royale, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 8.15 p. m. Sunday, at 4.30.

104 Rue Saint-Antoine (Salle Rivoli), every evening, at 8. Sunday, at 4 and 8 o'clock.

8 Boulevard Bonne-Nouvelle, every evening, and Sunday, at 8.

115 Rue du Temple, Friday and Sunday, at 8.

56 Boulevard Barbès (Montmartre), Monday and Friday, at 8. Sunday, at 8.15 p. m.

142 Rue du Faubourg-Saint-Antoine, Tuesday and Sunday, at 8.15 p. m.

39 Rue de Ménilmontant, Tuesday and Friday, at 8. Sunday, at 5 and 8 p. m.

3 Rue des Dames (Batignolles), Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday, at 8 p. m.

7 Place des Ternes, Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday, at 8 p. m.

62 Rue Monge (Quartier Latin), Tuesday and Sunday, at 8 p. m.

90 Rue d'Allemagne (La Villette), Thursday and Sunday, at 8.15 p. m.

117 Boulevard Voltaire, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, at 8 p. m.

17 Rue Chevert, soldier's reading-room. open every day.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION
FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES.

FROM MARCH 15, TO APRIL 1, 1894.

| | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| MAINE, \$222.00. | | NEW YORK, \$6,875.17. | |
| Augusta Auxiliary | \$31 00 | Albany Auxiliary | \$420 00 |
| Bath " | 116 00 | Brooklyn " | 864 77 |
| Ellsworth " | 25 00 | Buffalo " | 239 24 |
| Portland " | 50 00 | New York Auxiliary—Legacy from Estate of Mr. W. Y. Mortimer | 4,912 16 |
| MASSACHUSETTS, \$1,012.40. | | Rochester Auxiliary | 80 00 |
| Amherst Auxiliary | \$70 00 | Syracuse " | 154 00 |
| Andover " | 140 35 | Utica " | 205 00 |
| Easthampton Auxiliary | 26 25 | PENNSYLVANIA, \$1,501.34. | |
| Northampton " | 105 00 | Harrisburg Auxiliary | \$181 00 |
| Salem " | 227 90 | Philadelphia—Thos. Cooper | 10 00 |
| Springfield " | 336 50 | Pittsburgh and Allegheny Aux- iliary | 1,254 60 |
| Westfield " | 33 50 | Scranton Auxiliary | 10 00 |
| Whitinsville—Mr. Edw'd Whi- tin | 50 00 | Williamsport " | 45 74 |
| Worcester Auxiliary | 22 90 | MARYLAND, \$485.00. | |
| CONNECTICUT, \$793.22. | | Baltimore Auxiliary | \$485 00 |
| Hartford Auxiliary | \$160 50 | FLORIDA, \$10.00. | |
| Meriden " | 155 00 | Florida Auxiliary | \$10 00 |
| New Britain " | 173 72 | OHIO, \$394.00. | |
| New London " | 34 00 | Dayton Auxiliary | \$194 00 |
| Windsor Locks " | 220 00 | Springfield " | 200 00 |
| Winsted " | 50 00 | KENTUCKY, \$118.35. | |
| RHODE ISLAND, \$335.82. | | Louisville Auxiliary | \$118 35 |
| Rhode Island Auxiliary | \$335 82 | WISCONSIN, \$9.25. | |
| NEW JERSEY, \$1,179.50. | | Milwaukee Auxiliary | \$9 25 |
| Morristown Auxiliary | \$175 00 | | |
| New Brunswick " | 283 00 | | |
| Orange " | 660 00 | | |
| Trenton " | 61 50 | | |

FROM APRIL 1, TO JUNE 15, 1894.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| MAINE, \$2.00. | | PENNSYLVANIA, \$172.68. | |
| Lewiston—S. Robitschek | \$2 00 | Philadelphia—Collection at An- nual Meeting | \$42 68 |
| MASSACHUSETTS, \$10.00. | | Scranton Auxiliary | 130 00 |
| Pittsfield Auxiliary | \$10 00 | MARYLAND, \$200.00. | |
| CONNECTICUT, \$135.00. | | Baltimore Auxiliary | \$200 00 |
| Hartford Auxiliary | \$135 00 | OHIO, \$171.05. | |
| NEW YORK, \$1,187.84. | | Cleveland Auxiliary | \$150 00 |
| Albany Auxiliary | \$30 00 | Zanesville " | 21 05 |
| Clinton—Houghton Seminary | 15 00 | KENTUCKY, \$117.00. | |
| Hamilton—Union Meeting | 10 00 | Louisville Auxiliary | \$17 00 |
| New York Auxiliary | 1,132 84 | "Guthrie Memorial" | 100 00 |
| NEW JERSEY, \$579.42. | | MISSOURI, \$60.35. | |
| Bridgeton Auxiliary | \$52 00 | St. Louis Auxiliary | \$60 35 |
| Elizabeth " | 280 42 | KANSAS, \$35.00. | |
| Morristown " | 175 00 | Wichita Auxiliary | \$35 00 |
| Newark " | 50 00 | | |
| New Brunswick " | 6 00 | | |
| Trenton " | 16 00 | | |

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